

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 EUR-12 OMB-01

ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /087 W

----- 034424

R 081353Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8515

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6387

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SY IS US

SUBJ: ISRAELI VIEWS ON SECURITY ROLE OF GOLAN HEIGHTS

REF: DAMASCUS 3801

1. REFTEL NOTES THAT ARTICLE "LINES OF SECURITY" BY HEBREW UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR MARTIN VAN CREVELD WHICH APPEARED IN THE JERUSALEM POST JULY 25 WAS SUBJECT OF RECENT DISCUSSION BETWEEN AMBASSADOR MURPHY AND SYRIAN CHIEF OF STAFF SHIHABI. ARTICLE ATTRACTED LITTLE ATTENTION IN ISRAEL, WHERE ITS ARGUMENTATION IS SHARED BY FEW PEOPLE. VAN CREVELD, WHO HAS WRITTEN EXTENSIVELY ON STRATEGIC ISSUES, IS ONE OF A NUMBER OF DOVISH ISRAELI ACADEMICS WHO HAVE LITTLE INFLUENCE ON THINKING IN EITHER THE GOVERNMENT OR THE DEFENSE COMMUNITY.

2. MOST ISREALIS DISAGREE SHARPLY WITH BAN CREVELD'S CONTENTION THAT SYRIAN PRESENCE ON GOLAN HEIGHTS NEVER CONSTITUTED A REAL THREAT TO ISRAEL SECURITY, NOR WOULD THEY AGREE WITH HIM THAT MOUNTAINS TO WEST OF SEA OF GALILEE (LAKE  
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KINNERAT) FORM AS FORMIDABLE AN OBSTACLE TO INVASION AS THOSE ON

EASTERN SIDE. A NUMBER OF ISRAELI POLITICIANS PERHAPS AGREE PRIVATELY WITH HIS VIEW THAT CIVILIAN SETTLEMENTS ON GOLAN HEIGHTS HAVE NO MILITARY VALUE, BUT THEY HAVE BEEN SINGULARLY RELUCTANT TO SAY SO PUBLICLY.

3. IT IS CERTAINLY TRUE THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE FERMENT IN ISRAEL ABOUT ROLE OF GOLAN HEIGHTS, AS REGARDS BOTH ITS MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE AND FUTURE DISPOSITION OF CIVILIAN SETTLEMENTS. AT THIS POINT, HOWEVER THOSE WHO ARE SPEAKING OUT MOST STRONGLY ARE THE OPPONENTS OF ANY WITHDRAWAL ON THE HE OHTSBMX#THE OOMERNMENT#HAS PUBLICLY INDICATED ITS READINESS TO NEGOTIATE AN OVERALL AGREEMENT WITH SYRIA, AND SOME MINISTERS HAVE EVEN SAID THAT THEY WOULD SUPPORT THE REMOVAL OF SOME CIVILIAN SETTLEMENTS FOR A FINAL PEACE AGREEMENT. CONSENSUS OF SENIOR LEADERSHIP AT THIS POINT, AS HAS ALREADY BEEN NOTED, IS THAT CHANGE FOR INTERIM SETTLEMENT INVOLVING MORE THAN "COSMETIC" CHANGES ON THE GOLAN IS VIRTUALLY NIL AND THIS CONSENSUS HAS ONLY BEEN STRENGTHENED BY RECENT SYRIAN STATEMENTS.  
TOON

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NEGOTIATIONS, GOLAN HEIGHTS, MILITARY LOGISTICS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, SY, IS, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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